

(a) The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion and when the public interest will be benefited thereby—

(1) to exchange public lands in the State of Wyoming, within or without the boundaries of the project, for non-Federal lands of approximately equal value within the exterior boundaries of the project which are adaptable for use in the construction, operation, or maintenance of project irrigation facilities;

(2) upon concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture public lands within the exterior boundaries of the project which are suitable for development and settlement; and

(3) for the purpose of consolidating Federal holdings of lands in the project, upon concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, to exchange public lands in the State of Wyoming, within or without the boundaries of the project, for non-Federal lands of approximately equal value within the exterior boundaries of the project which are suitable for development and, upon consummation of such exchange, the lands received in exchange shall thereupon become a part of the project and subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed—

(1) when in his judgment the public interests will be benefited thereby, to exchange lands under his jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the project for non-Federal lands of approximately equal value within the boundaries of the project which he finds are suitable for project development and settlement; and

(2) upon concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior, to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior lands or interests in lands which are adaptable for use in the construction, operation, or maintenance of project irrigation facilities, or are unsuited for incorporation into farm units and are surplus to the needs of the project.

(c) (1) The lands transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture under the provisions of section (a) (2) and received in exchange under the provisions of sections (a) (3) and (b) (1) shall be developed, settled, disposed of and otherwise administered in the same manner as acquired project lands; and (2) the lands transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of section (b) (2) shall be administered under the public land laws, excepting lands transferred for use in the construction, operation, or maintenance of project irrigation facilities which, together with the lands received in exchange under the provisions of section (a) (1), shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in all respects the same as other project lands under his jurisdiction.

Approved May 28, 1954.

Public Law 378

CHAPTER 246

AN ACT

May 28, 1954
[H. R. 2696]

To provide a method of paying certain unsettled claims for damages sustained as a result of the explosions at Port Chicago, California, on July 17, 1944, in the amounts found to be due by the Secretary of the Navy.

Port Chicago,
Calif.
Settlement of
claims.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of effecting the settlement of those claims against the United States resulting from the explosions which occurred at the naval ammunition depot at Port Chicago, California, on July 17, 1944, which have not

been settled by the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in full settlement of all such claims, the respective sums found to be due in the reports of the Secretary of the Navy to Congress dated November 26, 1951, and November 12, 1952, submitted pursuant to Public Law 637, Eightieth Congress (62 Stat. 389): *Provided*, That no part of the amount appropriated in this Act in excess of 10 per centum thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or attorney on account of services rendered in connection with this claim, and the same shall be unlawful, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$1,000.

Approved May 28, 1954.

Public Law 379

CHAPTER 249

AN ACT

To revise certain laws relating to warrant officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

May 29, 1954
[H. R. 6374]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Warrant Officer Act of 1954".

Warrant Officer
Act of 1954.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act—

(a) The term "Secretary", unless otherwise qualified, means the Secretary of the Army, with respect to the Army; the Secretary of the Navy, with respect to the Navy and Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy; the Secretary of the Air Force, with respect to the Air Force; and the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Treasury Department.

(b) The term "warrant officer", unless otherwise qualified, means an officer who holds a warrant or a commission in a permanent or temporary warrant officer grade in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, including any component thereof.

(c) The term "date of a failure of selection for promotion" unless otherwise qualified, is that date on which the Secretary approves the report of the board under section 10 (b) of this Act, or the date upon which the name of the officer concerned is removed from a recommended list under section 10 (c) of this Act, or the date prescribed by the Secretary under section 12 of this Act, as appropriate.

(d) The term "active service" means active service as defined in section 511 of the Career Compensation Act of 1949.

63 Stat. 829.
37 USC 311.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GRADES OF WARRANT OFFICERS

SEC. 3. (a) Warrant officer grades, as prescribed in the following table, are hereby established in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. These warrant officer grades shall correspond to the various pay grades prescribed for warrant officers by section 201 (a) of the Career Compensation Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 802, 806), as amended, in accordance with the following table:

37 USC 232.